

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

- 1           1. (Currently amended) A method for controlling access to files within a  
2   plurality of virtual servers, wherein the plurality of virtual servers operate within  
3   separate virtual environments on a single computing device, comprising:  
4           accepting a file access request;  
5           determining if the file access request originated from within a virtual  
6   server of the plurality of virtual servers, wherein the virtual server operates within  
7   a virtual environment that is insulated from other virtual environments associated  
8   with other virtual servers;  
9           if the file access request originated from within the virtual server,  
10   determining if the file access request is for a new file;  
11           if the file access request is for a new file,  
12                    assigning ~~an~~ a server identifier to the new file, wherein the  
13                    server identifier can be used to identify the virtual server, and  
14                    creating the new file within a storage area associated with a  
15                    computing device hosting the plurality of virtual servers; and  
16           if the file access request is for an existing file,  
17                    retrieving the server identifier assigned to the existing file,  
18                    determining if the server identifier is associated with the  
19                    virtual server that generated the file access request, and

20 | if the server identifier is associated with the virtual server  
21 | that generated the file access request, allowing access to the  
22 | existing file, thereby providing access control for the file.

1 | 2 (Canceled).

1 | 3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein if the file access  
2 | request is a request to delete the existing file, the method further comprises  
3 | deleting the existing file.

1 | 4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein if the file access  
2 | request is a request to modify the existing file, the method further comprises  
3 | modifying the existing file.

1 | 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein if the file access request is a  
2 | request to allocate additional file space, the method further comprises:  
3 | determining if space is remaining in the storage area associated with the  
4 | computing device that is available to the virtual server; and  
5 | if space is remaining in the storage area that is available to the virtual  
6 | server, allocating the additional file space.

1 | 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing a system  
2 | administrator to establish an amount of storage within the storage area associated  
3 | with the computing device that is available to the virtual server within the  
4 | plurality of virtual servers.

1           7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein if the file access  
2 request did not originate from within the virtual server, the method further  
3 comprises:

4           determining if the file access request is a request to update the server  
5 identifier; and

6           if the file access request is a request to update the server identifier,  
7 updating the server identifier.

1           8. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing  
2 instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a  
3 method for controlling access to files within a plurality of virtual servers, wherein  
4 the plurality of virtual servers operate within separate virtual environments on a  
5 single computing device, comprising:

6           accepting a file access request;

7           determining if the file access request originated from within a virtual  
8 server of the plurality of virtual servers, wherein the virtual server operates within  
9 a virtual environment that is insulated from other virtual environments associated  
10 with other virtual servers;

11          if the file access request originated from within the virtual server,  
12 determining if the file access request is for a new file;

13          if the file access request is for a new file,

14                       assigning ~~an~~ a server identifier to the new file, wherein the  
15 server identifier can be used to identify the virtual server, and

16                       creating the new file within a storage area associated with a  
17 computing device hosting the plurality of virtual servers; and

18          if the file access request is for an existing file,

19                       retrieving the server identifier assigned to the existing file,

20 | determining if the server identifier is associated with the  
21 | virtual server that generated the file access request, and  
22 | if the server identifier is associated with the virtual server  
23 | that generated the file access request, allowing access to the  
24 | existing file, thereby providing access control for the file.

1 | 9 (Canceled).

1 | 10. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of  
2 | claim 8, wherein if the file access request is a request to delete the existing file,  
3 | the method further comprises deleting the existing file.

1 | 11. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of  
2 | claim 8, wherein if the file access request is a request to modify the existing file,  
3 | the method further comprises modifying the existing file.

1 | 12. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein  
2 | if the file access request is a request to allocate additional file space, the method  
3 | further comprises:  
4 | determining if space is remaining in the storage area associated with the  
5 | computing device that is available to the virtual server; and  
6 | if space is remaining in the storage area that is available to the virtual  
7 | server, allocating the additional file space.

1 | 13. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, further  
2 | comprising allowing a system administrator to establish an amount of storage

3 within the storage area that is available to the virtual server within the plurality of  
4 virtual servers.

1 14. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2 8, wherein if the file access request did not originate from within the virtual  
3 server, the method further comprises:

4 | determining if the file access request is a request to update the server  
5 | identifier; and  
6 | if the file access request is a request to update the server identifier,  
7 | updating the server identifier.

1 15. (Currently amended) An apparatus that facilitates controlling access to  
2 files within a plurality of virtual servers, wherein the plurality of virtual servers  
3 operate within separate virtual environments on a single computing device,  
4 comprising:

5 an accepting mechanism that is configured to accept a file access request;

6 a first determining mechanism that is configured to determine if the file  
7 access request originated from within a virtual server of the plurality of virtual  
8 servers, wherein the virtual server operates within a virtual environment that is  
9 insulated from other virtual environments associated with other virtual servers;

10 a second determining mechanism that is configured to determine if the file  
11 access request is for a new file;

12 a creating mechanism that is configured to create the new file within a  
13 storage area associated with a computing device hosting the plurality of virtual  
14 servers if the file request is for a new file;

15 | an assigning mechanism that is configured to assign ~~an~~ a server identifier  
16 | to the new file, wherein the server identifier can be used to identify the virtual  
17 | server;  
18 | a retrieving mechanism that is configured to retrieve the server identifier  
19 | assigned to an existing file;  
20 | a third determining mechanism that is configured to determine if the server  
21 | identifier is associated with the virtual server that generated the file access  
22 | request; and  
23 | an accessing mechanism that is configured to allow access to the existing  
24 | file if the server identifier is associated with the virtual server that generated the  
25 | file, thereby providing access control for the file.

1 | 16 (Canceled).

1 | 17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a  
2 | deleting mechanism that is configured to delete the existing file if the file access  
3 | request is a request to delete the existing file.

1 | 18. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a  
2 | modifying mechanism that is configured to modify the existing file if the file  
3 | access request is a request to modify the existing file.

1 | 19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:  
2 | a fourth determining mechanism that is configured to determine if space is  
3 | remaining in the storage area associated with the computing device that is  
4 | available to the virtual server; and

5           an allocating mechanism that is configured to allocate additional space  
6   from the storage area.

1           20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising an  
2   establishing mechanism that is configured to allow a system administrator to  
3   establish an amount of storage within the storage area that is available to the  
4   virtual server.

1           21. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:  
2           a fifth determining mechanism that is configured to determine if the file  
3   | access request is a request to update the server identifier; and  
4           an updating mechanism that is configured to update the server identifier if  
5   | the file access request is a request to update the server identifier.